

A Word from the convener

The LRF/BREEDPLAN Aldam Stockmans School has become an event that every beef producer should attend at least every three years.

It is now considered to be one of the very best live stock agricultural events in Africa. Many of our guest speakers believe there is no equivalent in the rest of the world. It is for this reason that the Stockmans School continues to be fully booked year after year.

The 2013 school again has a line-up of top speakers. Mr Brand Pretorius is well known as a leading businessman in South Africa and it has taken us three years of considered effort to get him to address the delegates at this year's school.

A lot has been mentioned in the media regarding genomics. Prof Mike Goddard is one of the leading scientists in this field. His forte is to bring theory into practice especially in cattle breeding.

Toby Jordan is a well-known producer in the USA that will be able to inform the delegates of how he applies science to breeding herds.

The school will not be the same without Dr Roger Hunsley, also from the USA, whom was recently inaugurated in the Cattleman's hall of fame. Dr Hunsley has written many books on judging and is a world expert on carcass evaluation.

The very best local South African speakers will be giving practical sessions in the afternoons including, Martin Seyfferdt. (head of the interbreed committee), Chris van Dijk (Zoetis), Vlok Ferreira (Molatek), Greg Talbot (Taltec), Munro Marx (Unistel), Anette Theunissen (Northern Cape Department of Agric, Land reform & Rural development), Frikkie Naser (UFS), Norman Maiwashe & Baldwin Nengovhela (ARC), Erick Joosten & Stephen Rasebotsa (ARC), Jaco de Bruin (Dairysmid), John Devonport (Tracey Devonport Financial), Bertus Kruger (Agra Namibia) Jan du Preez (MPO) and Morney de la Rey (Embryo Plus).

Once again we thank our sponsors for their continued support and encourage delegates to enter early to ensure their booking.